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# SKYLOOK

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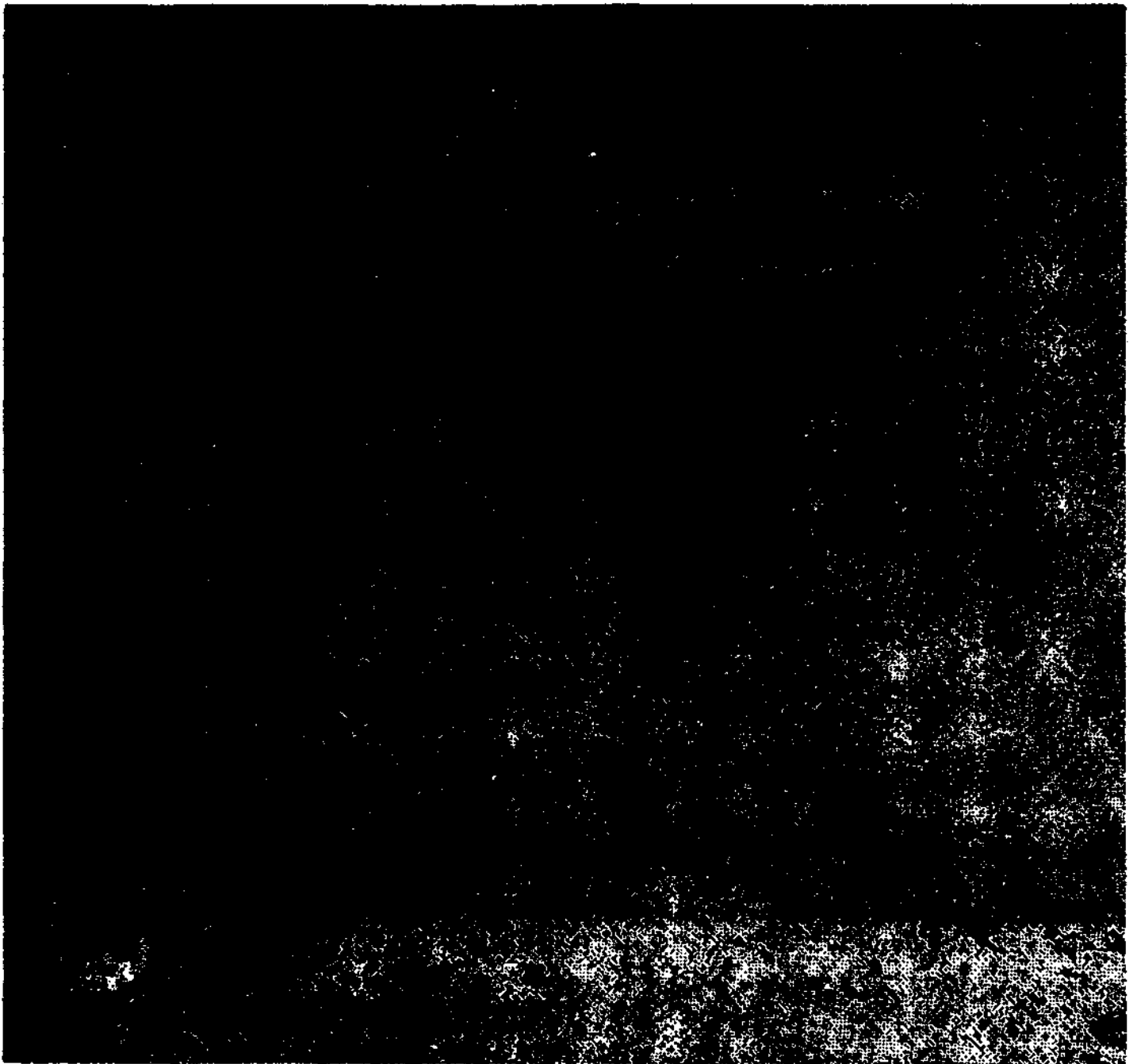
The UFO Monthly

January, 1976

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Mushrooms have, in one way or another, been a part of a number of UFO cases involving landings for several years.

Another such case, not verified, but interesting, has come to our attention from Argentina. The story begins on page 12.

Founded 1967

# SKYLOOK

The UFO Monthly  
26 Edgewood Drive  
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**Dwight Connelly**  
Editor

**Carolyn Connelly**  
Business Manager

**Walter H. Andrus**  
Director of MUFON

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Humanoid/Occupant Cases

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UFO Landing Traces

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St. Louis/Mass Media

**John F. Schuessler**  
UFO Propulsion

**Norma E. Short**  
Editor-Publisher Emeritus

**Len Stringfield**  
Editorial Assistant

## Editor's Column

I am very pleased to announce that veteran UFO investigator and writer Len Stringfield is joining SKYLOOK as an editorial assistant, further enhancing what most observers feel is the best staff on any UFO magazine in the world.

Len has contributed several reports in the past as a field investigator for MUFON. Current plans call for him to write a by-lined column each month in which he pieces together a number of reports, news items, and comments. Hopefully, he will also find time to occasionally work on a feature article which requires more than the usual amount of work, thus further lightening the editor's load.

Len is no stranger to UFO publications, having published and edited the monthly newsletter ORBIT from 1953 to 1957 (with a paid circulation of 2500). During these years Len was director of an international UFO research group known as CRIFO (Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects), the largest research group operating at that time.

Also during the 1953-1957 period, Len worked in cooperation with the Air Defense Command of the U.S. Air Force, investigating and reporting UFO activity.

In 1957 he published a paperback book entitled INSIDE SAUCER POST, 3-0 BLUE, which reviewed his work during the 1953-1957 period. The title comes from part of his Air Force code number. (Incidentally, Len still has a few copies of this book available for \$3.00. I recommend it.)

Other work in the field includes public relations for NICAP from 1957 to 1970, early warning coordinator for the Colorado Project under Dr. Condon from 1967 to 1969, president of the Cincinnati UFO Society in the late 1950's, investigator for the Center for UFO Studies, and investigator and director of public relations for MUFON.

He is employed as director of public relations and marketing services for DuBois Chemicals in Cincinnati.

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The contents of SKYLOOK are determined by the editor, and do not necessarily represent the official position or judgment of MUFON. Opinions of contributors are their own, and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, the staff, or MUFON.

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Alton, IL, area

## Woman sees possible humanoids

By David Schroth

Investigated and reported by David Schroth, SKYLOOK staff member and member of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, assisted by Robert Murphy of the UFO Study Center of Greater St. Louis.

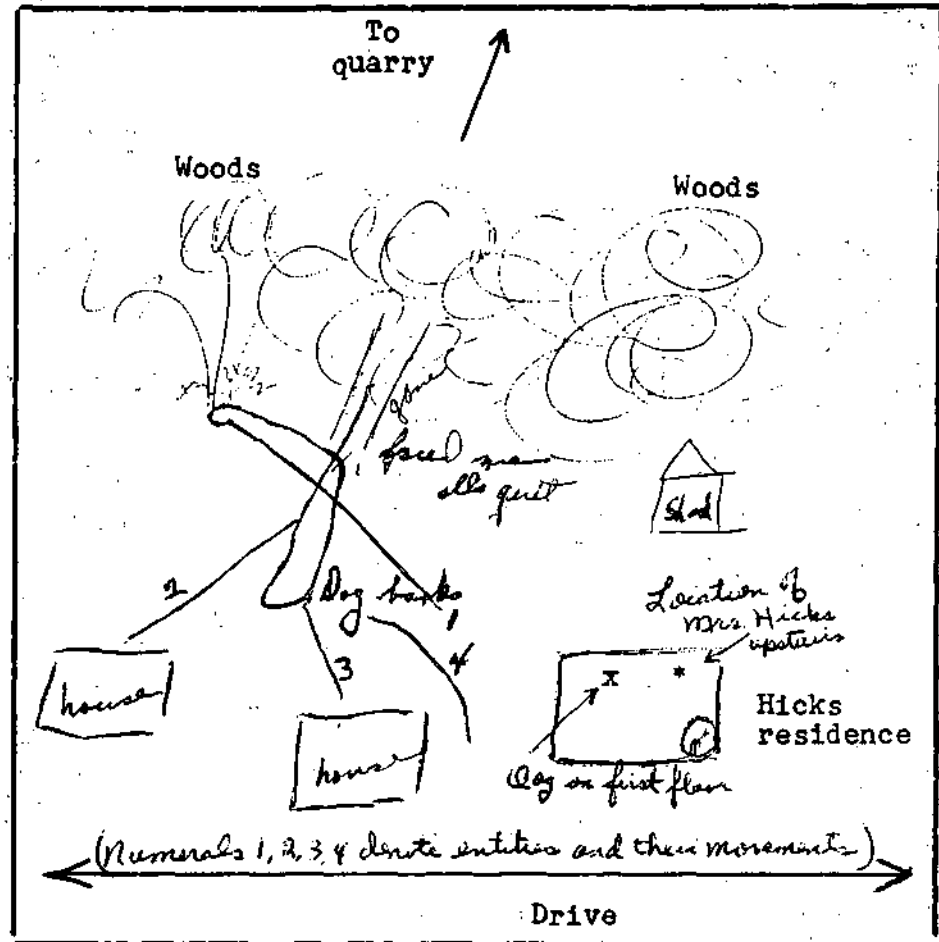
**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following is a preliminary report on a possible close encounter UFO experience which occurred in the vicinity of Alton, IL., on the night of Oct. 12-13, 1975. The term "UFO experience" is used here in its most general sense, for although the witness observed entities similar to those described in many close encounter UFO reports of the third variety, at no time during, prior to, or following the experience did she see any object or vehicle with which these entities may have been associated. The witness has requested that her name not be used (it is on file with SKYLOOK), and that the exact location of the incident not be published. The report is based on two tape recorded interviews with the witness. The case was referred to the investigator by the Center for UFO Studies.

### The Witness

The only witness in this case is Mrs. X, a housewife, 26 years old, who resides with her husband and three children in a subdivision near Alton. Prior to her UFO experience on Oct. 13, Mrs. X had had no particular interest in the subject of UFOs other than that acquired from reading occasional newspaper accounts of UFO sightings.

### The Incident

On the night of Oct. 12 (Sunday), Mrs. X waited up to see her husband leave for work at about 11:30 p.m. Although she



wasn't especially tired, she then went to bed and slept for approximately 2 hours. The bedroom is located on the upper floor of the house; its window faces north and looks out on a wooded area that extends about 250 feet behind the house. Beyond this wooded area lies an abandoned quarry. (See Sketch 1.)

Mrs. X awoke at about 1:30 a.m. and tried to get back to sleep, reflecting on the events of the day before. At this time, the family dog ("Sarge"), a 5-year-old Irish sheep dog, was sleeping on the lower floor near a patio door at the rear of the house.

This door is situated on the same wall as the window of the bedroom upstairs, and thus offers the same view of the

aforementioned wooded area behind the house. The only light in the house at the time the incident occurred was a small night light in the bathroom on the first floor. Also, it should be pointed out that the subdivision in which Mrs. X resides is very dark at night, for there are no street-lights.

At approximately 0200 on Oct. 13, Mrs. X heard the dog bark in a "vicious" tone that she had never heard before. Thinking that a fox or raccoon might have been disturbing the garbage (which event had occurred in the past), she arose immediately, without turning on any lights, and looked out the bedroom window.

It was then that she saw a human-like entity run from the

vicinity of the rear of the house towards the wooded area-- a distance later determined to be 55 ft. (See Sketch 1.) She thought to herself: What could that be?, and reported that her first impression was that of a silver wolf running on two legs. She said:

#### The Entities

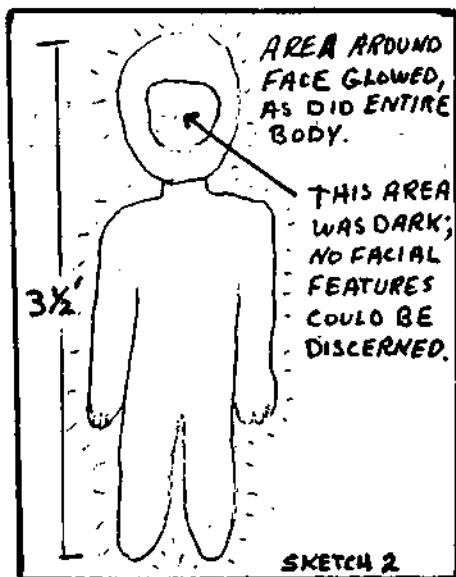
"I was trying to rationalize, when it turned and looked directly at me--or toward the back of the house, I should say. It was definitely the figure of a man. It was about 3½ feet tall, and it was luminous from head to toe, like aluminum foil would (glow) with a light cast on it in the dark --a glow like that." (See Sketch 2.)

Mrs. X kept her eyes on the entity as it stood still for a moment or so, "like it was debating whether to come back into the yard or go back into the woods." (Note: The yard behind the house is not fenced in, and thus leads directly into the woods.)

At that time, three more entities, identical in appearance to entity no. 1, came into Mrs. X's field of vision from the vicinity of the house immediately next door (west) to hers. (See Sketch 1.) These three entities joined entity no. 1, and all four entities then ran, in single-file, back into the woods.

Mrs. X lay back down in bed at that point. Aside from her three young children and the family dog, she was alone in the house. She reported that she was very frightened:

"It terrified me. I've never been so frightened....I don't get scared easily, but I was lying there and I knew what I had seen....I wanted to see more--I wanted to see if they took off or if they turned in the woods or what, but I was too afraid to look because I thought, if it (entity no. 1) had seen me staring at it, then I didn't know if it might get brave and decide to come back and try to get into the house,



or what."

Mrs. X then called her husband and asked him to come home at once, which he did. Mr. X and a neighbor armed themselves and searched the wooded area behind the house, as did several Alton, IL., police officers whom Mr. X had called to report the experience.

No evidence of anything out of the ordinary was found, nor were any personal possessions or household objects missing from the Xs' residence then or following the experience. So far as is known as of this writing, no neighbors or residents in the general area had REPORTED any UFO sightings or experiences on or near the 13th of October.

#### Additional Details

Further details about the entities and the experience in general are as follow:

APPEARANCE AND BEHAVIOR OF ENTITIES. All four entities were alike:

"Their bodies were erect.... They all ran stiff-legged, like they were on their heels--like their feet were pointed up.... Everything (about their bodies) was pretty well proportioned... Everything was covered. It looked like it was all one piece from head to toe, and it was all the same color (silver) ...Aluminum foil is what it

most resembled to me....The outfit was silver, but it gave off a white glow....They lit up the path as they went. They had nothing in their hands that I could tell. But they gave off a glow...."

Mrs. X reported that the entities resembled a human more than a robot. At no time during the experience did she hear or see the entities talk among themselves or communicate by any kind of gestures. Nor could she discern any features or details in the facial area, for unlike the rest of their bodies, the facial area was dark.

UNUSUAL QUIETUDE. Mrs. X mentioned that she had noticed an unusual silence at the time of her experience:

"Everything was so quiet out there--you didn't hear a bush, you didn't hear anything. It was just unusual....There was no wind, and it was really quiet. Everything was still--it was just very, very still."

When queried about what sounds she might ordinarily expect to hear at that time of the morning, she suggested the chirping of birds or crickets, the wind--"just sounds; nothing that you'd really listen to or pay attention to. It just stuck in my mind that it was dead quiet.

"It was so quiet that, even with the window closed, with the four of them going down into the woods, they would have rattled enough branches and leaves on the ground to make noise, and they DIDN'T make any noise....To me, I remember it being awfully still."

#### Concluding Remarks

On the morning following her experience, Mrs. X composed two pages of notes, recounting the events of the previous night. She also called the ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH to inquire about the name and phone number of a local UFO organization to which she could report her experience. She was advised to contact Dr. J. Allen Hynek of the Center for UFO Studies, whom

## Cincinnati area has variety of sightings

By Len Stringfield

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Following is a list of preliminary reports from the greater Cincinnati area for the period Oct. 22-Nov. 10, 1975.

Oct. 22, 1975: After dark, engineer observed UFO hovering over Covington, KY, Municipal Building (across river from Cincinnati) from 14th floor window. The UFO moved close to his window at low level. Through binoculars he could see rotating lights around the disc-shaped object's catwalk. The UFO had a peculiar set of "wings" protruding from the body. He got camera, went outdoors, and watched UFO go around his building at low level, making no sound. Before he could adjust his camera the UFO shot away.

Oct. 22, 1975: About 11 p.m., the night the Cincinnati Reds won the final game of the World Series, Mr. and Mrs. J.S. saw a bright red glow in their she then called and to whom she related an account of what she had seen.

### Personal Impressions

Throughout the course of about five hours (total) discussion with Mrs. X, this investigator found her to be intelligent, articulate, and thoroughly sincere. Her account of what she had seen remained consistent, both in her own description of her experience and in her responses to questions about the experience.

Accordingly, it is the impression of this investigator that Mrs. X has related a sincere and truthful account of a real experience. However, whether this experience involved entities of an anomalous nature and from an unknown source or (human) pranksters remains an open question.

house window. They went outdoors expecting to see "victory" fireworks. Instead they were surprised to see their neighbor's house, yard, trees, and street bathed in a red glow. Both saw a round, red ball in the sky moving low and soundlessly across the sky in a horizontal flight pattern.

Oct. 23, 1975: About 9 p.m. S.C. and girlfriend and another female passenger in car in Fairfield, OH, were pursued by a low level UFO. The UFO passed over the car and while driving up a grade in the road, the UFO's cigar-shape was caught in the car's headlights. UFO sent out a rod device with four small orange balls at the tip. Girls became hysterical.

Oct. 26, 1975: About 1:20 p.m., an "instrument rated" pilot in Cherokee craft, flying near New Baltimore, OH, called to the control tower of the Greater Cincinnati Airport to report observing an unidentified silver, hovering object at 8000 ft., in clear weather, visibility 12 miles. Radar confirmation negative, but the UFO may have been undetected by radar's "cancellation" effect. The UFO shot off and out of view.

Oct. 27, 1975: At 8:30 a.m. two artists for a publishing company in Eastern Cincinnati saw a brilliantly lighted disc from their second story office window. The UFO hovered, and occasionally vacillated jerkily, over electric power line about a half mile away. After about 30 to 40 seconds, the UFO shot off at 30-degree angle with the incredible speed of a "flashlight beam."

Oct. 27, 1975: About 11 p.m. Cincinnati police officers reported seeing UFO in eastern Cincinnati. They described it as a large bright light with little red lights on both ends. One officer on duty drove to

Ault Park, at a higher altitude, to view the light. He confirmed the unidentified light. "I've never seen anything like it," he said.

Oct. 27, 1975: About 10:45 p.m. J. H. of Westwood in Western Cincinnati saw two UFOs for about 10 minutes. He said they were about 1000 ft. high and flying back and forth about 100 feet apart.

Oct. 28, 1975: About 2:30 a.m. police patrolman R. P. of Campbell County, KY, also saw two UFOs while driving on a highway. He said one of the objects was on his left, the other to his right and that he was driving between them "very close"! The UFOs made no sound, he said.

Oct. 29, 1975: In evening, S.R., a boy 15 years of age, was walking home after selling candy for a school benefit. Suddenly a UFO, shaped like a "beer can," appeared about 25 ft. overhead. On top was a white light with rotating red lights on the bottom. The UFO made no sound and after hovering for about 20 seconds, it shot straight up into sky. S.R. came home frightened, tried to relate his sighting to unsympathetic parents. He called the police, who gave the boy my phone number. I was not available.

The next day S. R. left a "runaway" note on the kitchen table in which he expressed great agonizing fears of the UFO and said that he knew that the UFO was after him. He signed his note with love and promised to call when he was safe. The father, J.R., who had been in touch with the police, called me in his confusion over his son's behavior and the UFO. He said his son withdrew \$500 from his bank account and was missing.

The next day, the boy was apprehended by security police

at the Atlanta airport. He was brought home and before retiring from fatigue asked to call me. He was incoherent and still frightened. He admitted that he was still shaking in fear of the UFO.

I have since had several talks with S. R. and he has related the root of his fears. One year ago, in Oct., 1974, he witnessed a UFO with portholes in his high school yard at tree top level. This frightened the boy, and while in bed that same night he said he experienced a dream or in a trance-like state, saw an unhuman, oval-shaped head with oval eyes and wrinkled skin that had no nose, and a slit for a mouth before him. The "creature" related telepathically that he would

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take him away and not to be afraid.

On Oct. 26, 1975, S.R. saw a disc-shaped UFO come in low over his house. "The bottom," he said, "was dull reddish black and was divided into squares like graph paper." Then on Oct. 29, S. R. had his final experience with the "beer can" UFO.

Nov. 4, 1975: About 6:45 in Ross, OH, six witnesses in car spotted UFO hovering at tree top level. It was cylinder-shaped, about 75 feet in diameter with blue, green and red rotating lights. Square windows were observed. While the UFO hovered over a wooded area it started into a spinning motion; a small glowing red ball of light, about 3 feet in diameter was ejected out of the bottom. The car's engine and lights went out.

After the red ball disappeared, the witnesses were shocked to see "landing gear," glowing blue, come out of the bottom of the UFO, which appeared to land in a wooded area. When the object vanished from sight, the car's engine started, as did all the "woody insect" sounds which had stopped, according to witnesses.

Nov. 10, 1975: About 6:30 p.m. two gas station attendants in Ross, OH, saw a large steady glowing white light in the sky about five times larger than the brightest star. The UFO moved toward the station and "blinked out." When the UFO disappeared, both attendants smelled the strong odor of sulphur. Also a motorist driving in for gas also remarked about the strong, offensive odor.

During this period, investigators in Greater Cincinnati have recorded 16 individual reports of "unexplainable" nocturnal lights in the sky. Some reports indicate "close up" lights, which are not included in this Preliminary Report, as questionnaires have not been returned. Most of the reports, in my opinion, have celestial or other conventional explanations.

# Missouri

By Ted Phillips

Date of sighting: Nov. 28, 1975, 0500 (CST).

Location: Sedalia, MO.

Witness: Mrs. Carol K., age 23.

I received the following report during a conversation with the witness on Dec. 1, 1975. The witness called me on Nov. 30, 1975. She has not reported the event to the news media. No additional witnesses have been found to date. The witness is a high school graduate, very intelligent, and seeks no publicity.

The following is taken, in part, from a taped interview at the home of the witness.

**Mrs. K:** I was sleeping and I heard the door close (her husband leaving on a hunting trip) and I got up and went through the house. I wanted to be sure the door sound was my husband leaving. Suddenly, I heard a weird, kind of like thunder or rumbling noise. It changed right away to a kind of buzzing like electricity. The dog started barking and growling, and the other dogs in the neighborhood were barking. I looked out the kitchen window--our dog was running in circles and really growling.

**Phillips:** Were the dogs barking before you heard the sound?

**Mrs. K:** No.

**Phillips:** What happened after you heard the sound?

**Mrs. K:** I went to the front window and saw this weird looking star (N-5°, 25° above the horizon) with a circle around it. A kind of blue-green halo. It was getting bigger and brighter and you could see the greenish-blue color around it sort of like a circle. The center was just white, real bright and perfectly round. The circle around it wasn't as

Animal reaction noted

## woman reports close sighting

bright.

**Phillips:** As you watched, did the halo appear to be spinning, any motion at all?

**Mrs. K:** No, it just got bigger, it was coming straight (south). Then it turned to the left (W) and kind of glided down.

**Phillips:** Did it move rapidly?

**Mrs. K:** No, real slow.

**Phillips:** How long did you see it before it turned, and did it stop before it turned?

**Mrs. K:** Oh, I can't say, maybe 2 minutes. It didn't stop; it just turned and glided down. When it turned it looked like a three-pointed star with a tail, you could see the glow around it.

**Phillips:** What did this tail look like?

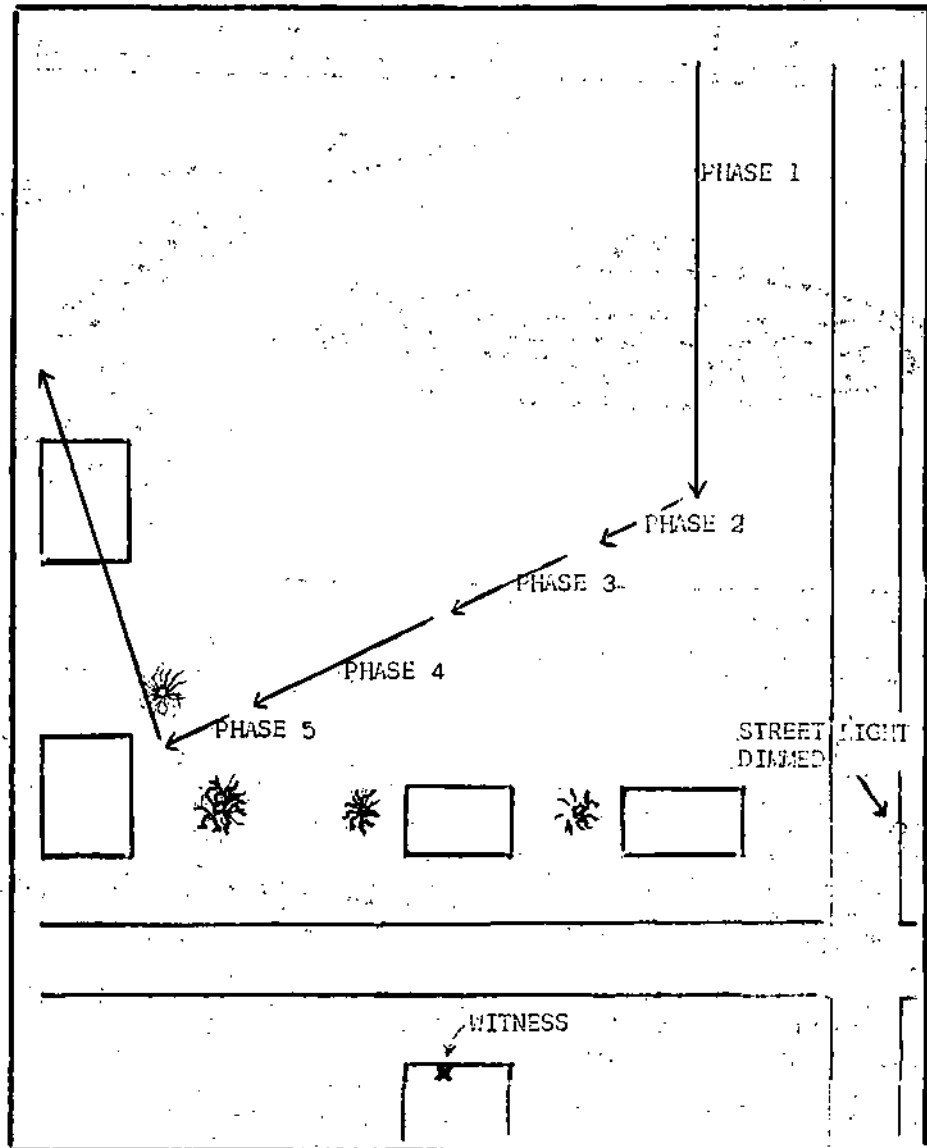
**Mrs. K:** Not like fire, you could see sort of like a path behind it. It was bright white like the thing was.

**Phillips:** Could you still see the blue-green halo when the tail appeared?

**Mrs. K:** No, it disappeared when it turned. After it turned left it moved to the left just a little way and then it kind of flipped over or something and I could see what looked like spinning blades, face on. It was round now and spinning and a glow behind it. It was blue-green again. It went a short way and then I could really see it. It moved real slow and downward behind that tree. It stopped there for maybe 2 or 3 minutes.

**Phillips:** Did it wobble?

**Mrs. K:** No, it was steady. After it stopped for a short time, it moved between these two trees (140 ft away) and tilted up and I could see part of the bottom. I could see street lights reflected on the bottom. The surface looked



like metal; it was silver with the little red lights and the big red ones. I could see a white top (dome) and three circles in the white. There was something like a black cross at the back. When it tilted I couldn't see the little red lights, just the big ones, and they turned toward the ground.

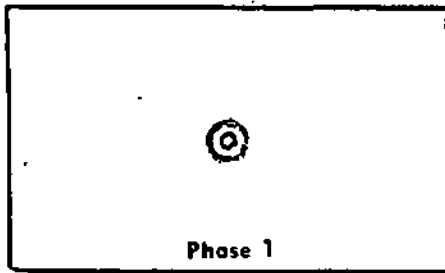
**Phillips:** The lights turned? Not the object?

**Mrs. K:** Yes, after the object tilted, the lights turned toward the ground. Also I could

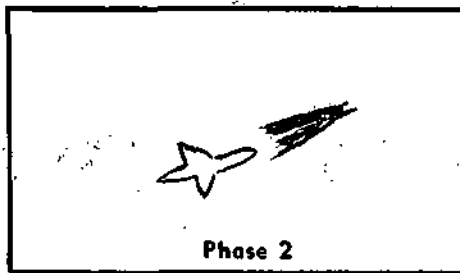
see part of the white top and the three circles on the top looked like bubbles.

**Phillips:** Could you see light coming through the bubbles?

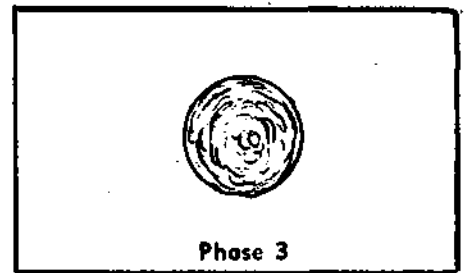
**Mrs. K:** No, they were outlined on the white. After it tilted and the lights turned I could see two big circles on the bottom and a door or something between them. It stayed there for a minute or so and then it moved toward me a little bit. I could see the big



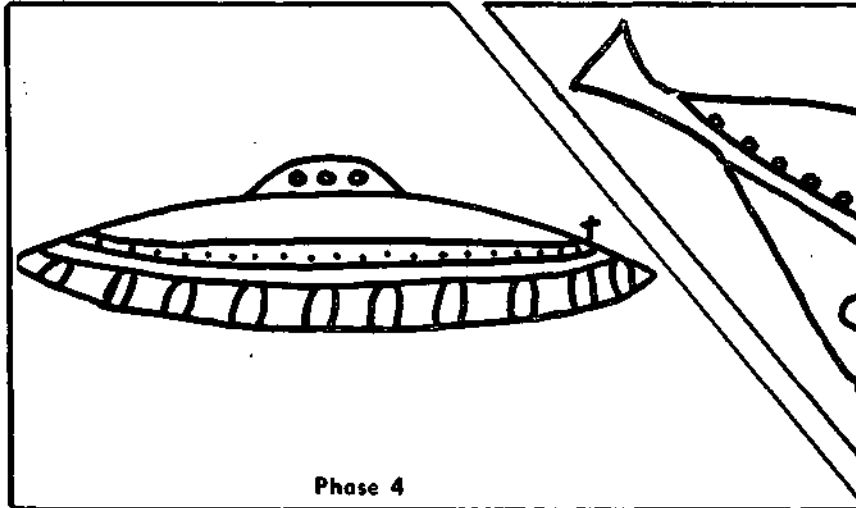
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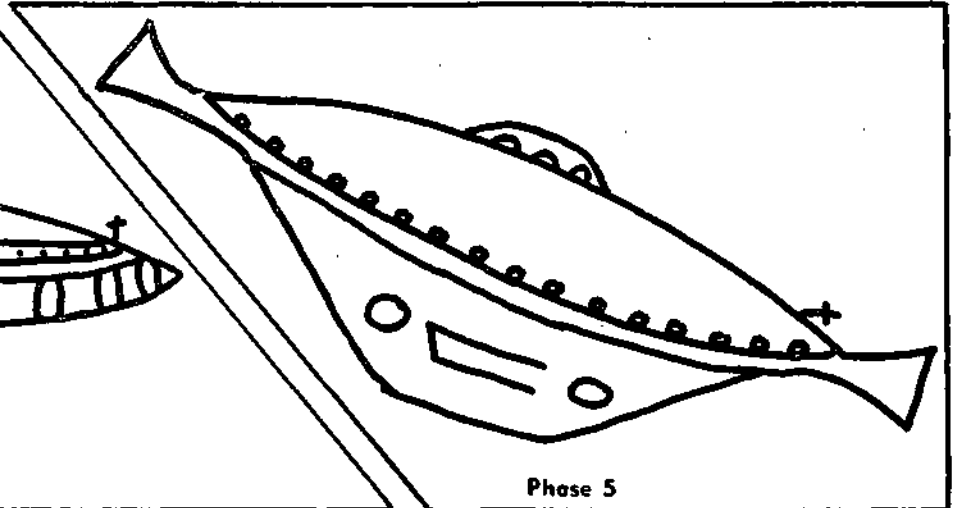
Phase 2



Phase 3



Phase 4



Phase 5

lights tip and shine on the snow (10 inch snow cover); after that it raised up a little bit....

**Phillips:** Straight up?

**Mrs. K:** Yes, but slowly, and then it went away from me a little bit, raised up again and went away over the house (to the NW) and disappeared behind the house.

**Phillips:** How long did you see it?

**Mrs. K:** I really don't know ....probably 15 minutes at least. It moved away very slowly.

**Phillips:** Did you have any lights on?

**Mrs. K:** Yes, one light in the kitchen; it dimmed several times and that street light seemed to get dim also.

**Phillips:** Did the sound continue during the sighting?

**Mrs. K:** Yes, until it moved away, a kind of buzzing.

**Phillips:** How about the dogs?

**Mrs. K:** They started barking before I saw it and until it left.

**Phillips:** You don't have a telephone?

**Mrs. K:** No.

**Phillips:** Did you see any

cars go by?

**Mrs. K:** Just one.

**Phillips:** Does the dog normally bark a lot?

**Mrs. K:** No, he is a very gentle dog and it was strange-- he never growls, but he was barking and growling and run-

ning in circles and the other dogs were barking.

**Phillips:** Have you seen a UFO before?

**Mrs. K:** No.

**Phillips:** Have you read about them?

**Mrs. K:** Not much.

## Other sightings reported in Sedalia, MO

By Ted Phillips

On Nov., 13, 1975, at 2215, at Otterville, MO., located 11 miles east of Sedalia, Mrs. X observed a very bright blue-white sphere approaching her farm home. The object made a low pass below the trees and stopped for a short time very near the ground and about 40 feet from the witness. The object ascended vertically and disappeared. The witness was alone and became quite frightened. She called a relative to come and stay with her. No traces were found.

On Dec., 7, 1975, at 0230, at Sedalia, MO., a single witness (male, 37 years old) observed a bright blue-white globe to the south as he was driving east on 16th street on the east side of Sedalia. The

object appeared to pace the automobile for a short time, accelerated and moved ahead. Witness attempted to follow the object until he arrived at the end of 16th street. The object dropped toward the ground and hovered briefly about 20 feet above ground level near a barn. The witness stopped his car and watched as the object moved away toward the east. At the close point the witness claimed he could see three "windows" on a dome. Rotating lights were also seen near the center of the object.

These two cases and several others are being checked at this time. During the past two months there have been at least eight reports in the Sedalia area, and rumors of several additional reports.



'Breaking the ice'

## Ft. Smith Conference reviewed by Pitts

By Bill Pitts  
Director,  
Ft. Smith UFO Conference

Editor Dwight Connelly very kindly has offered me an opportunity to discuss various aspects of the recent Fort Smith UFO Conference in general--and his "critique" in particular (see October SKYLOOK).

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank SKYLOOK for advance notices of the, then, forth-coming conference, and express my appreciation to the many MUFON members attending--along with the directors and members of all the other UFO organizations of note.

As Editor Connelly so aptly noted, three out of four directors of the main UFO organizations in attendance at the conference is an exceptional feat. John Acuff of NICAP did not attend, but I respect his reasons for not doing so.

### Breaking the Ice

Since this was the first effort toward bringing all persons interested in the UFO phenomenon together in a combined meeting, I am very pleased at the response. I am not completely happy, nor content, with the conference, but, as one person attending said, "The conference as a whole was well worth the time and effort. Perhaps it broke the ice. Here's looking forward to the day of the thaw!"

Mankind, in it's best estate, is subject to many errors, trials, and tribulations. It became evident at the conference that not everyone would be in complete agreement. Open animosity between directors of two of the UFO organizations proved how men, in search for

authority, show that they cannot cope with certain situations--in this case, even open cooperation.

As the chairman-director of the conference, I started to comment on this before the entire group in attendance, but considered that everyone was intelligent enough to draw his own conclusions. I stated at the conference, and do so again--the problem of the UFO phenomenon is greater than any individual, or group, professing an interest in it, and that it behooves each of us to conduct ourselves in a friendly spirit toward each other so that UFO investigations do not become bogged down with human conceit, and deceit.

### Charles Hickson's Role

Regarding Hickson's not taking a polygraph examination at the conference, I can only state that it is up to Hickson to prove that he had such an experience--and not up to any UFO investigator. After all, regardless of the amount of investigating after the fact, or what any of us may believe about Hickson or another alleged "contactee," the "burden of proof" is on them.

Hickson had been invited to attend on a general basis in my first letter to him, because I did not know exactly how to contact him or, indeed, whether I would even hear from him. After he called me, answering my request that he do so, I stipulated that he was being invited with the express stipulation that he receive a polygraph examination during the conference, and to which he agreed.

He mentioned this fact to the National Star reporter in a story which later appeared in

the Aug. 26 issue. Hickson, in the same article, is quoted as being the "focal point" of the conference, and that he (Hickson) would "detail three new UFO sightings before a world body of scientists" at the conference.

This all turned out to be public-relations material for Hickson, and it was only at the moment I was to take Hickson for the Polygraph examination that he told me that he could not take it--for the reason that the "climate" was not right. It is my interpretation that the "climate" was going to be too hot, and Hickson repeated to one of the newspaper reporters that the polygraph examination may tend to discredit his initial experience and hurt the sales of his forth-coming book.

In this, I believe that Hickson is telling us something he did not intend to let out.

Dr. James Harder told me at the conference that he had not, at Pascagoula, placed Hickson into a deep trance; thus, we now have the information that the hypnotic session (according to Hickson's own promotion material) is not any more conclusive than was the polygraph examination in New Orleans. I will leave Charles Hickson to those who choose to believe him.

The other person at the conference, and who did receive a polygraph examination, failed his exams--but is happier because of it. He was not trying to gain publicity, and, in fact, is shunning it. This person believes that he had the experience, back in 1953, but has been hoping that it did not happen. His testimony has more information than did Hickson's, and I am obtaining additional information from him.

(continued on next page)

## Order of Events

To get on to Mr. Connelly's "critique"--I think he has been more than kind. The reason Hickson was placed on Friday night's program was a part of a progressive program that I hoped to build from--knowing that other speakers would be referring to the Pascagoula incident.

It was not possible to have all the speakers at the most convenient moment for all attending, and we had to start somewhere.

All but two of the speakers were from invitations only. Two of them contacted me and asked to be on the program, manely Stanton Friedman and William Spaulding, both of whom added much to the conference. Also, since many UFO reports do relate to radar, I wanted to get this portion of the programming at an early spot, so that those attending would understand what radar is and what it is not.

It must be remembered, too, that not everyone attending the conference had attended any other UFO meeting, or symposium, so it was important for them to see, and hear, all the basics--as well as the directors of the UFO organizations represented.

Personally, I could have sat through the entire week-end just listening to Dr. Hynek, an honest, learned person who has my deepest respect. To me, a real "sleeper" was Dewey Fournet, who probably has more real background on the flying saucer UFO experience than anyone living--with the exception of Dr. Hynek.

The workshop sessions were not originally scheduled for the program. A phone call from Mark Chesney, of the Center for UFO Studies, assured me that these sessions would add immeasurably to the conference and were a "must." Thus, I placed Mark in charge of these sessions. While he was at the conference he became ill, and I did not see him until Sunday

noon, after the conference was over. Those participating in the workshop sessions, however, did manage to "carry the ball," and received much interest from those attending the sessions.

## Other Factors

The "after hour" parties were "split" due to a motion picture crew, and others, staying at another motel, approximately three miles from the headquarters motel. There was nothing we could do about this division of persons.

For those who chose to turn in early, the 8 a.m. session was no problem. No one knew it was early any more than did I; however, again, we had to start, and stop, sometime. The program was very full, and it was my contention that those attending could sleep when they returned to their respective homes.

An area at the headquarters motel was available for meetings, and just general getting together, throughout the week-end. This was announced on more than one occasion by me, and if no-one was interested in utilizing the facilities, it was not for me to make them do so.

There are many aspects of the conference planning I could tell you about. You may, or may not, be surprised at how many times I had to change the tentative schedules because one speaker would not appear just before, or just after, another. Some would not appear on any type of panel, if another was going to be on the panel. This is the human element.

I had to make decisions, however, because I not only instigated the idea for the conference, but I was the only person working on it and getting it all together. I had to reach some decisions for the final program--and did so--not to the entire liking of those participating--not even to my own. Frankly, only I am to blame for any improper placement, or scheduling, of the program material.

I hope that the conference,

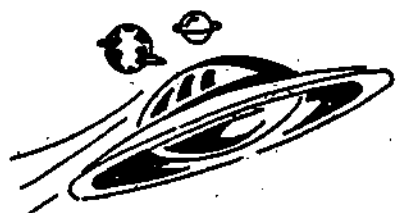
if there was anything at all good gained from it, will let others in the future remember what to do, and what not to do. I wish I could tell you of the persons who called, or wrote, about UFO experiences and who wanted to be on the program; those who contacted me to advise that aliens from other planets exist in the mountains of Kentucky and that they would give me some "signs" prior to the conference; of occult-psychic overtones, and some religious, arising from "dreams" persons were having and which had taken them to other planets, during their dreams, and they wanted to tell the scientists attending about these "dreams."

These, and others, became almost an everyday phone call and/or letter. Dr. Hynek had asked me how we were going to keep away the "kooks," --and I assured him that there were probably some in the UFO organizations--maybe, even on the program. His question really interested me, however, and showed that the UFO phenomenon had "come a long way, baby"--when "flying saucer" fans were wondering how to keep away "kooks."

This became an amusing aspect of it all to me--especially at times when I wished I had never thought of having such a conference. Dr. Hynek's question pulled me through some otherwise discouraging moments. Believe me, it is one thing to hear about a meeting--to sit back and enjoy it--and another thing to worry about the programming of it.

## Future Conferences

I have much material for other conferences, should they ever be held. I would change some of the format, if I had anything to do with another, not because I think I was wrong on this one, but know that the human mind can absorb just so much--and, then, it is nice to get away from it all, for a time, anyway.



A closed book . . . or a new one?

## Sightings in the USSR

By Joe Brill

For the past several years I have endeavored to present to the readers of SKYLOOK magazine the documented facts on the observations of Unidentified Flying Objects over the Soviet Union and the communist nations of Eastern Europe. To those who have read the facts of the cases presented in the past years, it is obvious that these areas of our world are as frequently visited by UFO's as is the rest of the world.

I have arrived at the point with this regular column where I believe it should cease. And so, this article will be the final installment of information to show that not only do UFO's frequently appear over the Soviet territories, but that some scientists consider these observations as scientifically important.

On June 24, 1975, Doctor Felix U. Zigel wrote to me that he had completed Part 2 of "Observations of UFO's in the USSR," but that it would be "impossible" to transmit this completed work to me at this time.

Dr. Zigel expressed his desire to be of a greater assistance, but stated, "Unfortunately, not all depends on me and I can do only what is in my power personally for the development of a fruitful, scientific cooperation between the USSR and American research concerning the UFO phenomenon." He also made special mention to "send my best wishes to Mr. Walter Andrus for his efforts in this field."

Since this letter of June 24 I have not received any response from Dr. Zigel to my letters of inquiry as to the authenticity of the recent NATIONAL ENQUIRER feature story, which directly quoted him and related several ac-



Dr. Felix Zigel

counts which I had not previously heard of. It now appears that the curtain of silence has again been drawn on Dr. Zigel and his research on UFO's in the Soviet Union.

In addition to the letter of June 24, Dr. Zigel enclosed a "Prospectus" on a book entitled "INTERPLANETARY VEHICLES AND UFO's" of which he is the author. This was dated June 25. He indicated that any interested American publisher should write directly to: All-Union Agency for Author's Rights, Lavrushinsky per. D. 17, Moscow 109017, marking it to the attention of Boris Mikhailovich Zatsepin.

Dr. Zigel was hopeful that some American publisher would be interested in publishing such a manuscript. The following is the translation of the Prospectus for Dr. Zigel's completed work:

### Prospectus

In the new PROGRAM OF INVESTIGATION OF PROBLEMS CONCERNING EXTRATERRESTRIAL CIVILIZATIONS of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (1974), on page 19 there is a point concerning interplanetary vehic-

les, where the following is stated:

"Special attention should be devoted to the discovery of vehicles of extraterrestrial civilizations that may be found in the solar system or in orbit around the Earth. For such a search for quickly moving objects, the system of continuous surveillance of all the heavens must be supplemented by creating a special radio directional bearing system. In the initial stage, use could possibly be made of the already existing complexes intended for cosmic link-ups and radio location."

Thus, the search for extraterrestrial and interplanetary vehicles in orbit around the Earth has become a serious topic of scientific investigation in connection with extraterrestrial civilizations. Clearly, among these vehicles are those that are able to descend into the Earth's atmosphere or even to accomplish a landing on the Earth's surface for a complete collection of desired information.

In connection with this, there is now a need for books which examine on a highly contemporary scientific and technical level, but in sufficiently popular form, the interstellar problems involved, the possible forms of construction and other parameters of interplanetary vehicles, and in particular the propulsion systems. These questions, in the meantime, are unfortunately scantily treated in scientific literature--as is also the case for the methods for discovery and study of interplanetary vehicles.

I offer a book that should fill this vacuum. In the first section of it, the problems of direct contacts among civilizations of the Cosmos will be extensively examined. Also, civ-

ilizations on a higher level than civilizations here on Earth, for cosmic flights probably utilize cosmic mass-energy resources in full measure externally (that is, not provided on board cosmic ships); then, in the book there will be a detailed examination of possible earthly energy for cosmic flights in the future.

In particular, electrostatic, electromagnetic and quantum flight systems will be subjected to critical analysis. It is proposed to survey the problems of "anti-gravity" and reception of energy from a physical vacuum and of utilizing them to power vehicles for a measured distance.

In connection with this, it is proposed to analyze possible forms of construction of interplanetary vehicles and their physical characteristics. Individual attention will be given to methods of discovering interplanetary vehicles in the neighborhood of the Earth and in the Earth's atmosphere.

There has to be reported anew the search for interplanetary vehicles and the problems of "flying saucers" or UFO's. In this book there will be detailed a basic new method of studying reports of UFO's that will permit screening out erroneous observations when ball lightning, optical phenomena in the atmosphere, or apparatus maintained from Earth are taken for interplanetary vehicles. It is proposed to explain in detail the methods of revealing various counterfeit and false reports relating to UFO's.

In this book there will be given in detail an account of the investigations of UFO's observed in the USSR, in particular of the celebrated Tungus UFO of the year 1908. Since the UFO phenomenon extends over an important range in time and in all historical periods, I propose to examine, excepting analysis of contemporary UFO's, such remarkable UFO's of the past (for example, the so-called "Kirillid wave" of 1913). (I would imagine Dr.

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## Mushrooms, other traces reported



Zigel is referring to the UFO flap which lasted for three weeks in January of 1913 over Dover, Cardiff, Newport and Neath, England. The "London Standard" of Jan 31, 1913, published a list of the towns from which unknown flying objects were sighted by local citizens. (J.B.)

The principal aim of the book is to give the reader a rigidly scientific approach to the problems of the study of UFO's and to uncover falsifications and unscientific absurdities having to do with "flying saucers." Such a book should prevent the spread of pseudo-scientific, sensational stories about serious problems of the search for interplanetary vehicles and at the same time attract scientific workers from all countries to serious study of this theme.

The book will be useful on all themes that concern problems of cosmic flight and propulsion systems for the future. In a supplement to the book will be given a complete catalogue of communications received concerning the observations of UFO's over the USSR."

Date of possible sighting: April 20, 1975.  
Location: Jachal, Argentina.  
Source: Newspaper SAN JUAN.  
Translated by: Bill Armstrong.  
Submitted by: Joe Brill.

### April 24 Edition

Yesterday morning two technicians from the National Highway Department who work as inspectors for the Benito Roggio S.A. (Incorporated), which is building the stretch of road from Jachal to Zanja de Dona Julia, on the route to Rodeo, visited our correspondent in the city of the north. They reported to him that some children had consulted them Monday as to whether during the preceding night they had been working on the side of some hills located opposite the Pachimoco dam at some one hundred meters south of the provincial school Bienvenida Sarmiento, which is located in the place, and at about ten kilometers from the plaza San Martin in Jachal.

The technicians, Raul Marquez and Vicente Monfrinotti, answered the children in the negative, since on Sunday night nobody worked on the road, least of all on the side of the nearby hills.

"But our curiosity was aroused, said Marquez, "and we went to make an inspection of the area, where we had the great surprise of encountering a series of marks and circumstances which would indicate the landing of a UFO."

Immediately and accompanied by Marquez and Monfrinotti and by the Jachal superintendent, Sr. Jesus de la Cruz Vidable, as well as by cameramen from the local press, our representative went to the place, which had been the site of the alleged landing.

The place is located as we indicated above, on the side of a hill and is almost in the backyard of the Vienvenida Sarmiento School, or better said a few meters from it. It involves a hard, rocky terrain. At the

site were found the tracks of the bases, or landing pads, of a tripod or something of that nature. The mark of said bases indicates a perfect equilateral triangle having a distance of exactly four meters one from the other, and each track measuring thirty centimeters in diameter.

The ground where each one of the three bases of the tripod settled, in which there remained a mark of approximately one centimeter in depth, is found completely burned, darkened by the heat. In the center of the triangle marked by said tracks can be seen a large patch of soot or smoke like that which remains after the burning of gun powder, there being found completely scorched some small plants of arum and of "core" which are in that place.

On touching, the rocks which have been stained (by the soot) soil the fingers with something like soot.

Around the three marks of the bases of the supposed tripod were some enormous mushrooms, which amount to seven all told.

The caps of some measure some twenty centimeters in diameter, and the stems measure some seven centimeters.

As we said, the area is completely dry, of rocky soil, where the last thing one could expect to find growing is mushrooms, which normally appear in places with much moisture. Proof of this statement is the fact that in the immediate surroundings there does not exist a single plant of this type which in a strange and suspicious number appear at the site of the possible landing.

Yesterday when our correspondent was at the place where the mushrooms appeared it seemed that the strong wind on Monday had uprooted them from the site where they originally were since they were found half dried.

In general terms the impression which has been left with those who have visited the site is that without any doubt some

unidentified flying object landed there, since the marks of the tripod would so indicate. Also, the scorching of the plants, the patch like burnt gun powder on the ground, the existence of mushrooms in a totally unheard of place, and the appearance of lights at a place and at a time inappropriate.

Our correspondent in Jachal has presented the news of this event to the authorities of the Police District twenty-one, whose head, Chief Sixto Carbajal, immediately went to the site, taking proper steps to insure that the found traces should not be erased by the public which had begun to visit the place.

#### April 25 Edition

Just as we indicated in our article yesterday, the possible appearance of flying saucers in Jachal has awakened a true excitement in the area, where a great number of the people have paraded incessantly through the place of the supposed landing so that, it has been converted into a center of true attraction.

The most important news on the case is given by the circumstance that the authorities of police district twenty-one have collected the mushrooms and samples of the rocks and burned ground, which have been sent to the Space Experimentation Station of Chamical in the Province of La Rioja, so that they might duly analyze them.

On Wednesday afternoon the mushrooms collected at Pachimoco were examined at the headquarters of district twenty-one by an agricultural engineer who, after minute examination of the mushrooms, reported not knowing of such a species and showed his astonishment at the extraordinary size of the same, the diameter of the cap on one of them reaching twenty-two centimeters.

#### April 28 Edition

The carrying out of a hoax

enters into all the possibilities. With the purpose of establishing whether, in the area of the Pachimoco dike, there are other mushrooms like those found at the site of the presumed landing, our representative in Jachal visited the site yesterday and talked about this matter with the person in charge of the dike, Mr. Julio Balmaceda, who has filled this position for 9 years, but during this time he never saw mushrooms of this size nor any small ones. This discards the possibility that they were cut in the surrounding area and carried to the site where they were found.

On the other hand Mr. Marquez and Mr. Monfrinotti indicated that when they discovered the traces at the site, outside of these there were no signs of human tracks belonging to those who could have been the authors of the joke.

When our representative was at the Pachimoco dike yesterday he met Nestor Simon in passing, accompanied by his family. His wife, Mrs. Juana Ontiveros de Siman, told that approximately 20 days ago, when she was ironing in her home, located in the district of El Fical, 17 km. from the Pachimoco dike, she was called by shouts to the patio by her daughter, Juana Beatriz, 11 years old.

When she went there, the daughter showed her a light to the west which illuminated the area with a sky blue color, while it remained rocking for 5 minutes, more or less, until it descended sharply in the area near the Pachimoco dike. This same spectacle, said Mr. Siman and his wife, repeated itself days later.

Several neighbors of the western sector of Florida street indicated that on Friday, April 25, around 8 p.m., they saw something "like a ball of light" which remained oscillating for 8 minutes, also at the height of the Pachimoco dike, finally to disappear leaving a tenuous cloud in its place.

Tandil, Argentina, plunged into darkness

## UFO reportedly breaks electric line

Date of sighting: April 14, 1974.

Location: Tandil, Argentina.

Investigated by: Organization of Tandil for the Investigation of Extraterrestrial Phenomenon (OTIFE).

Submitted by: Jorge A. Bruno, director of OTIFE, through Joe Brill.

Translated by: Dr. Willard Armstrong.

The plunging of the city of Tandil, Argentina, into darkness at 4:05 a.m. and the alleged observation of a UFO hitting a power line at the same time are two of the ingredients in the strange case involving Sebastian Acevedo.

At approximately 3:45 a.m. Acevedo, 35, began his usual walk to work, leaving the humble hut of clay and cardboard where he lived with his wife and three children on the outskirts of Tandil. Having barely completed the first grade, Acevedo is semi-illiterate, and his major goal in life has been to obtain a bicycle with which to travel to work at a grain processing factory in Tandil.

Having walked slightly more than three blocks through patches of fog and the cool night air, Acevedo looked into the sky and saw a luminous point which seemed to fall. He described it as "a star which was coming down."

### An Intense Light

He gave little attention to this, supposing it was a meteorite or "something similar." He had walked about 15 feet farther when a powerful light shown from behind him. He supposed it was an auto, so he stepped to the right to get off the pavement. At the same time he turned his head toward the light.

He then noted that the light was coming from some sort of machine in the air which had apparently approached at a high rate of speed, and at that instant had stopped over his

head. The machine made a tremendous noise, according to Acevedo, similar to "one thousand welding machines."

The machine was about eight feet in diameter and was shooting off "possibly six or seven" flames from its edges. The device now opened its underside and a red beam of light covered Acevedo, totally paralyzing him.

"I wanted to call for help, but I could not," he explains. "I wanted to run, but I could not. I felt a very strong pain in my chest as if my heart was paralyzed. While that thing was there it lifted me, twice, to above thirty to forty centimeters (12-16 inches) off the ground."

Acevedo said he was lifted very slowly, "as if it wanted to suck me in," and that he was drawn very close to the object: "I am sure that if I had been able to move my arms I could have touched it." He said that the object rose as he rose.

Acevedo said the object gave off intense heat "like that of an oven like those that are in the steel mills."

The opening on the underside of the object was described as being about half the size of the "machine" and "it opened like those doors in the western saloons in the movies." The light which came through the opening was "very strong and coming down as though enclosed or restrained. Here it was and suddenly it ended. It was not like the beams from spotlights which you don't know where they end."

### Saved by Watchman?

At this moment the watchman at a nearby factory came out shouting, "What's going on." Acevedo believes this saved him from being abducted by the object.

The watchman, Juan Reyes, said he was frightened because he thought a transformer located at the entrance of his factory (Tandilera De Magnasco, manufacturer of cheeses and candles) had caught on fire. The watchman observed the great luminosity, but did not see the object, since only Acevedo could be observed after Reyes opened the factory gate. Acevedo was reportedly observed turning around in circles in the middle of the street.

Another indirect witness was the manager of the factory, who lives in the factory building. He says he heard the noise and was aware of the illumination, but attributed it to trucks coming to load merchandise. He did not realize that the time was 4 a.m. rather than the 6 a.m. time scheduled for such loading. The manager's son also observed the illumination and heard the noise.

Immediately following the encounter, Acevedo said he was "very dizzy and I was very thirsty indeed. I was sweating, I am certain, because of the heat which that thing gave off." He said the manager took him to the main office, where he had to tell what had happened. "I did not want to. I had to go to work. I was very nervous, but I had to go to work. I am a poor man and no one hands out money."

### Followed Power Lines

Acevedo said that the object moved straight up as it left him, then banked at an angle, following along and above the power lines until it reached the highway (where the power lines cables cross Route 226). "There it collided with something," said Acevedo, "some cable or something else, because the light became much brighter after it rose up a

## Possible kidnaping by UFO averted by youth

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following account appeared some years ago in Gene Duplantier's magazine SAUCERS, SPACE, AND SCIENCE. It is interesting in view of the recent Travis Walton case (January SKYLOOK) and the 1974 Tandil, Argentina, case (this issue). The sketch accompanying this story is by Duplantier. This account was provided by Joe Brill.



This incident took place in Thompson, Manitoba, Canada, sometime between June 15 and June 30 of 1967. It occurred at 6 p.m. and was seen for three or four minutes by Mr. and Mrs. D. F. LeMarquands, three of their children, four neighbors and two other children.

Mrs. LeMarquands had just entered the house when she heard a beeping noise at about one second intervals. Looking out the window, she saw dirt and debris moving rapidly around the house in a circular pattern. Upon going outside, she saw her husband who had just driven into the yard. He and the five children were staring up into the sky.

At first, only dust and dirt, moving in a vortex, could be seen. But then Mrs. LeMarquands was able to see the object which was causing the disturbance. She described the object as being large and shaped much like a pack of cigarettes, although she later commented that it might have been cube-shaped.

It was revolving counter clockwise and appeared to have alternating shiny aluminum and black sides as it moved. It had no apparent openings or lights, and it was now dead silent.

As she watched the object, Mrs. LeMarquands was distracted by a scuffling sound and she looked to the ground to see a 13-year-old boy from across the street pinning down her 8-year-old daughter. At this time the

object started moving off at a forty-five-degree angle, levelled off, hovered, and then left on a level course towards the southeast.

Mrs. LeMarquands' attention was then drawn toward the children, all of whom were visibly shaken, except her 8-year-old daughter. The whirlwind had stopped, and the little girl was now standing by herself.

The other children were eventually sufficiently calm enough to relate that their 8-year-old playmate had risen into the air towards the slowly revolving object. The 13-year-old boy had grabbed her when she was about three feet off the ground. The children reported that the little girl's skirt, blouse, and hair had ridden straight up her body when she was rising.

When asked if she could remember anything, the girl replied that she could remember nothing from the instant the wind started until she stood up.

Mrs. LeMarquands further reported that all the debris that had been blown up had been dropped in a yard across the street as the object moved off. She also stated that the "wind" had revolved around their home only, without touching either of the neighboring homes nor the grass outside the "circle."

"It was almost as though a huge glass container had been placed over them, the area involved was so exact," Mrs. LeMarquands reported.

bit."

Street lights which had been burning were off when Acevedo went into the factory with the manager, he said. The Buenos Aires Electric Company's substation is located about 1800 feet beyond the highway where the object appeared to collide with something. The time was 4:05 a.m., according to the watchman's watch. At this time

the city of Tandil had just been plunged into darkness.

An investigation of the area later revealed that one of the 13,200 volt cables carrying power to Tandil had been cut at the point where Acevedo noted the intense flash of light as the object left him. The cable had fallen to the pavement at the intersection of Route 226.

This corresponds with Ace-

vedo's report that the last thing he saw was a fire running along the high tension wires in the direction of the electric company's substation located 1800 feet beyond Route 226.

OTIFE investigators concluded that the UFO had made contact with the cable going to the substation, causing an excess of voltage which caused the immediate breakdown and fire in a



transformer in the substation.

Electric company technicians could not explain why the seven automatic relays at the step-down substation did not operate properly to protect the substation. The substation at Tandil suffered the complete destruction of feeder 104 and section 4 of feeder 105, as well as fire damage. Damage was estimated at two million pesos, and the report of the incident was classified as secret by authorities.

The official cause of the cable break was listed as wind, even though the cable was broken between towers, and the wind that night was blowing at only 13 to 15 kilometers per hour (8-9 mph).

#### Additional Sightings

In checking the Acevedo case, OTIFE investigators found other witnesses who said they had observed three luminous discs above the mountains at 11 p.m. on the night of April 13, a few hours prior to the Acevedo incident.

A resident of Tandil and his family were reportedly witnesses just after midnight on April 14 to a red UFO over one of the low hills of Tandil which caused interference on their TV set.

A woman reportedly observed at 3:45 a.m. on April 14 an intense reddish light which surrounded her house in a Tandil suburb. The light reportedly came from a circular object which left at a high rate of speed without making any sound. A taxi driver who had taken the woman home shortly before her sighting confirmed seeing the red glow, but he had not seen the object.

Two men traveling from Tandil to Olavarria in the early hours of the morning of April 14 reportedly saw at a point 14 kilometers (8½ miles) from Tandil a "being of low stature" on the side of the road, which appeared to have no face. Their auto was then illuminated on the inside with a very bright white light, they said.

## High speed 100-degree turn

# Commercial pilot

Date of sighting: July 6, 1975, 1700-1730 (EDT).

Location: 30 nautical miles NNW of the Wilkes-Barre, PA, VOR stations.

Investigated by: Raymond E. Fowler, MUFON director of investigations.

Type of sighting: daylight disc by commercial pilot.

#### Sighting Background

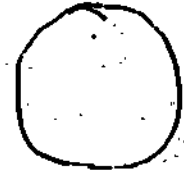
On or about Sept. 13, 1975, I received a telephone call from Allegheny Airlines Flight Captain Robert L. Hobson, who informed me of a UFO sighting made by a friend, an Allegheny Airlines flight captain and his co-pilot (who prefers not to file a report). Captain Hobson knew of me because of a personal UFO sighting that was relayed to me via the FAA. I mailed a letter and a Form 1 to Captain X requesting him to fill it out and return it to me.

#### Sighting Description

(Transcribed from "Personal Account" Form 1)

"I was about 30 nautical miles NNW of the Wilkes-Barre VOR, in the captain's seat of a BAC 111 turbojet, at an altitude of 17,000 feet, eyeballing a line of thunderstorms that lay across our normal route of flight. The storms lay in a NE-SW line, the SW end of the line ending in the Wilkes-Barre area, and the line running NE as far as I could see, and the radar painted it all the way across the tube on the 60-mile scale.

"The closest storm lay at about our 10 to 11 o'clock position and the radar showed a significant rain gradient, and lightning was visible to the eye. We were operating in clear air (with) good visibility and cloudless skies above and behind us. Our heading was about SSE.



Color -- Very Dark Rust  
At Times Appeared  
Almost Black

"At the time we saw the disk, the closest storm was about 20 nautical miles (from us) on the radar and the disk was somewhere between us and the storm. My First Officer and I saw the disk at about the same time. We both watched it intently.

"The airplane was on autopilot and we were closing on the object. Our airspeed was about 300 kts. (300 knots/nautical miles per hour). It quickly took (on) a disk-like shape. At this point, it was lower than we were and moving from our left to right, or roughly E to W.

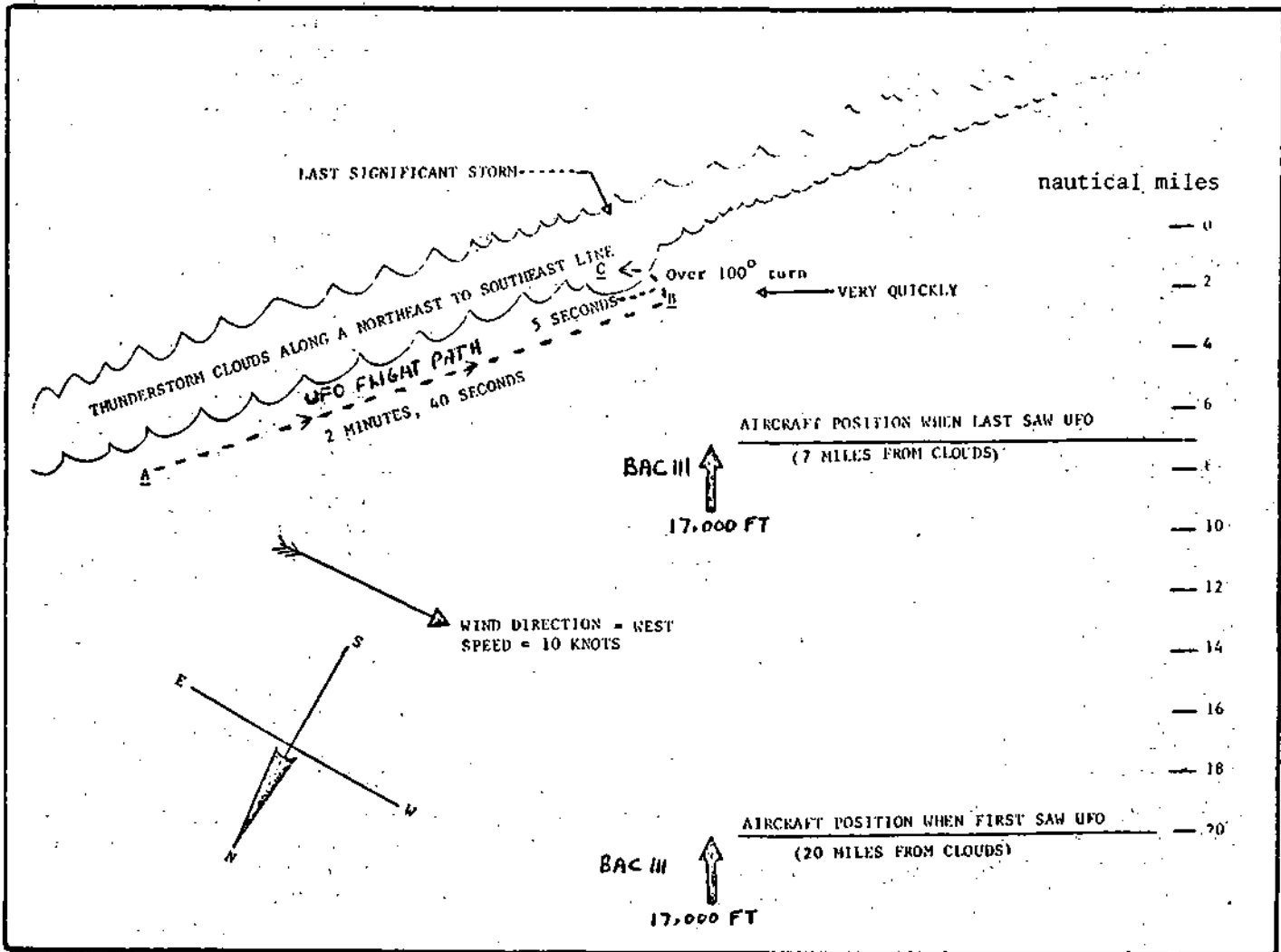
"My initial impression was that we were looking at a balloon. As you know, the prevailing winds in these latitudes are W to E and this westward flight of a balloon puzzled me. However, I know that thunderstorms will often create a strong counter-clockwise flow of air and a balloon on the north side of a storm might well drift westward.

"I quickly realized that the speed of the object was far higher than you might expect even in the strongest wind. This thing was technically traffic for me so I asked the Air Traffic Control Center (New York), if he had a radar target at 11:00 o'clock (relative to our nose) and about 10 miles (away). He said, 'Negative, no target in that area.'

"Very shortly after that, it made a sharp (more than 100 degrees) turn to the left and flew right into the thunder-



# reports daylight disc



storm. The size of the disk at this point was about 'one-inch' across as viewed from our position. We never saw it again after it entered the storm."

Note: After talking with Captain X by phone, he realized that his estimate of 1 inch in diameter was too large an apparent size if the full moon were  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter. His description of  $\frac{1}{3}$  the diameter of the full moon on Form 1 is a better estimate for the object's apparent size when closest to the aircraft.

## Interview and Interrogation

Upon receipt and study of

the signed Form 1, I phoned the witness on Oct. 2, 1975, and went over the Form 1 with him to assure its accuracy. The following additional information resulted from this conversation.

1) Accurate apparent size was  $\frac{1}{3}$  full moon's diameter, not 1" at arm's length.

2) Object's 100-degree turn ruled out a balloon in his estimation.

3) Object's 100-degree turn and maneuver into thunderstorm clouds coincided with his radio enquiry to New York Air Traffic Control as to whether they had a target in that area.

4) Air Traffic Controller

broke off contact abruptly when witness told him by radio that --"Whoever is inside that 'thing' is going to get the ride of his life" --when it entered the thunderstorm clouds.

5) The BAC 111 aircraft's radar was not fine-tuned enough to pick up the UFO at that distance unless the antenna was pointing directly at the UFO. Even so, the target size would be small and probably would be lost in the signal noise on the screen. The radar is designed for weather targets.

6) It is possible that the object was masked from ground radar because of its close

proximity to the thunderstorm clouds.

On Oct. 8, 1975, I mailed Captain X a scaled drawing of the UFO sighting event. On it, I noted the farthest and closest positions of the aircraft to the thunderstorm clouds during the UFO sighting period. I asked him to sketch in the UFO's relative position and flight path: to divide the UFO flight path into two legs (A - B and B - C) intersected by the 100-degree plus turn; and, to denote the estimated flight duration time of each segment. (See sketch.)

On or about Oct. 27, 1975, I again phoned the witness to remind him to send the requested data to me. I asked him to carefully consider the accuracy of his initial three-minute sighting duration estimate. When I received the requested annotated sketch, I noted that he had revised the UFO sighting time duration from 3 minutes to 2 minutes and 45 seconds.

#### **Additional Witness Check**

The Co-Pilot elected not to file a report.

#### **Natural Phenomena Check**

Only ball lightning would fit the description of the observed object in shape. However, color, size, speed, maneuver and time-duration would seem to rule out ball lightning.

#### **Man-Made Object Check**

The Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Climatological Records, Washington, D.C. (A.C. 202/427-7919) informed me that weather balloons in that and other areas throughout the United States were launched only at 0000Z and 1200Z (8 a.m. and 8 p.m. EDT).

When I described the UFO event to this office, they were of the opinion that it was not

any kind of a balloon.

A check with the local National Weather Service branch in Boston, MA, confirmed these National Launch Times. I did not check out the possibility of an experimental research balloon as there would be too many possible launch sources--colleges, universities, government projects, etc.

Data seems to rule out any kind of balloon. See SIGHTING EVALUATION for pertinent data negating a balloon.

#### **Other Possibilities**

Caliber of the witness would rule out hoax or hallucination (shared with co-pilot?).

#### **Sighting Evaluation**

The object was 1/3 the apparent size of the full moon or about .08 of an inch held at arm's length according to the witness. It was situated against clouds which radar indicated were 20 and then 7 nautical miles from the aircraft when the object was first and last seen. The object was moving into the wind when first seen and executed more than a 100-degree turn before entering cloud cover.

When observed it was silhouetted against a line of clouds. Visibility around and between the aircraft and the clouds was unlimited. The object was observed for about 3 minutes (estimated 2 minutes, 45 seconds). The abrupt turn and disappearance into the thunderstorm clouds took only an estimated 5 seconds.

The following negative factors, based upon rough (but conclusive) calculations rule out the possibility that the object might have been a balloon if the witness' estimates are taken as being fairly accurate.

These factors are based upon: the object's .08" at arm's length apparent size; its esti-

mated location and flight path in relation to the cloud line and approaching aircraft; the 300 nautical miles-per-hour speed of the oncoming aircraft; and, the estimated sighting time duration.

Rough estimates indicate that the object would have had to be over 100 feet in diameter to displace an apparent diameter of .08" held at arm's length when the aircraft was at least 7 miles from it as judged by the known distance to the cloud cover it was silhouetted against when last observed. It would have had to be a very large balloon!

Another point to consider in negating the balloon possibility is the object's speed. If one takes the scaled UFO location and flight path at face value (See sketch), the UFO would have travelled 18 nautical miles between Points A and B in 2 minutes and 40 seconds. This would place its speed at over 400 knots.

Add to the above data that the object was moving about directly into the wind and that it performed a fantastic plus 100-degree turn when its position was communicated via radio by the witness, and the balloon answer is very weak.

The above reasoning coupled with the training of the witness(es) cause me to place this UFO sighting in the unknown category.

## **1975 MUFON SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS**

(111 pages)

The 1975 Proceedings is available from MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Sequin, Texas 78155 for \$4.00 post-paid.

# Bright UFO seen from private plane

Date of sighting: Nov. 22, 1975, 17:50-17:55 (EST).

Location: 15 miles north of Walterboro, SC.

Witnesses: Frank Auman, Jr., Asheboro, NC, contractor, county commissioner, pilot; and Arlan Keith Andrews, MUFON engineering consultant.

Type of sighting: brilliant white light in daylight.

By Arlan Keith Andrews

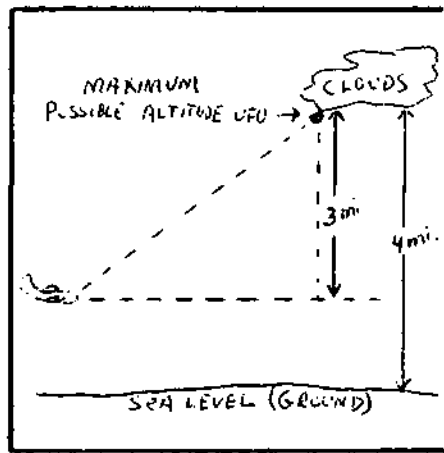
Frank Auman is an experienced pilot with over 2000 hours of flying time. While we were flying enroute to Savannah on the referenced date, I asked whether he had ever seen UFOs while flying, since we are both interested in the problem. He said that he had once seen a brilliant white light near the horizon and that it had performed maneuvers and acted strangely enough to convince him that it had been a UFO.

Within five or ten minutes of that conversation, we spotted a white light to our left (southeasterly, since we were heading southeast, ourselves--see map). We speculated on its being a satellite, but saw that it was below the clouds. We had had cloud reports from ground controllers that the clouds were at 20,000 feet, and our own altitude was 4000 feet.

At the time we were on IFR (instrument flight rules) and were flying over or parallel to Interstate 95 for safety's sake in case of engine failure.

When we decided that the object probably was not an aircraft either--since there were no red or green lights, and the white light was not flashing, nor were any beacons visible--we looked at the time and our location--it was approximately 5:50 p.m. and we were about 15 miles north of Walterboro, SC, heading south.

We continued to observe the light and it appeared to be angling slightly toward us (see



estimated trajectory on accompanying map) and appeared as if we would pass close to it, as we continued on our own flight path.

I picked up my 35 mm camera and prepared to take some photos of the light, but was waiting until it got brighter and closer, because having taken pictures of stars at night, I knew that a half-second exposure or more would be necessary to get a good image, and I didn't want blurred or elongated pictures if it were indeed a UFO. With the camera (SLR type) up to my eye I waited for the object to get closer. At about the time I decided that I had better get some kind of exposure just in case, the object made a slight wobble (it appeared to me), and made a hard left turn. It accelerated and within ten seconds had disappeared into the still-sunlit sky to our right. I did not take a picture.

It is important to note several facts here. First, there were never any other kinds of lights visible, so either the object glowed white all over, or (less likely, I imagine) a bright light was trained on us the whole time.

Secondly, we saw that the object was under the clouds when the observation period began. The sky was relatively dark under the clouds, as the sun had just set and there was only about a 10 or 15 degree band of sunlight near the horizon. As the object came across

our projected flight path it entered into the lit portion of the sky and it was still brilliant. Its intensity was very much brighter than Venus at its brightest, and the object steadily diminished in intensity until it finally vanished in the light and haze over the horizon. There was no sudden disappearance.

Upon landing at Savannah, we went for a weather briefing at the Weather Service, reported what we had seen, and they called Jacksonville Center. They related that there had been several UFO sightings (three was the word) during the time of our observation. They did not say whether this meant their own radar or simply visuals by other pilots.

Information was also volunteered that Fort Jackson, SC, was testing weapons that night, too. A map will show that Fort Jackson was about 75 miles to the north and west of our position at the time of our sighting. Furthermore, the object was always to the south of us.

We both regretted that we had not had the presence of mind to ask the ground controller to look for another craft near us, during the sighting itself. Even UFO investigators do not always touch all bases during a sighting. I further regret not having taken even a blurry picture of a blob.

The estimated elevation from the sighting vantage point was somewhere between 15 to 30 degrees. A sketch is included to show the range of distances from us the object could have been. I feel that the limits were somewhere between 5 to 8 miles.

## 1975 trace report addition

The following case was inadvertently omitted from the listing of 1975 trace cases by Ted Phillips printed in the December issue:

May 09 1975 Grafton, Australia. 15 ft circle with a width of 1½ ft found, grass at center normal. (DAILY NEWS Murwillumbah N.S.W. 05-14-75)



# In Others' Words

By Lucius Forish

The NATIONAL ENQUIRER's most recent UFO articles have included a lengthy report on Travis Walton's UFO abduction claim (December 16 issue) and singer Mel Torme's 1963 UFO sighting (December 23 issue).

NATIONAL TATTLER reported Rev. Billy Graham's thoughts on UFOs and angels in the November 30 issue. In the December 14 issue, TATTLER featured a report on a Michigan center for the study of UFOs and psychic subjects.

The January issue of MEN contains a UFO article which can only be described as "questionable rehash." Save your money.

A good article by Robert Klinn appears in the January issue of PROBE THE UNKNOWN. This deals with the underwater object seen near Pascagoula, Miss., shortly after the Hickson/Parker abduction claim was made public. Klinn quotes from a Navy investigations report on the incident.

Wendelle C. Stevens' article on "angel hair" in the January issue of SAGA is excellent and certainly worth the attention of all UFO researchers.

The Winter issue of UFO REPORT is available at this writing. As always, it contains numerous items of interest, including an excerpt from Jacques Vallee's forthcoming book, THE INVISIBLE COLLEGE. UFO REPORT will be published on a bi-

monthly schedule, beginning with the next (March) issue. Also, a list of back issues of the magazine is available from the publishers (333 Johnson Ave. - N.Y., N.Y. 11206).

An interview with nuclear physicist/lecturer Stanton Friedman appears in the January issue of IN THE KNOW. Mostly familiar material, but still of interest.

The February issue of MALE contains a rather questionable UFO article by Ronald Drucker. The March issue of this magazine is supposed to feature an article on "UFO-active" areas of the U.S.

The first issue of a new magazine, ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS, is now on sale. In addition to featuring material on the theories of von Daniken and other writers, the publication will also carry articles on Fortean phenomena, the Bermuda Triangle, etc. The issue is billed as an "OFFICIAL UFO Special Issue," but plans call for it to be published as a separate magazine on a quarterly basis. A good portion of the material is familiar, but later issues might prove more interesting.

EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTERVENTION: THE EVIDENCE by Jacques Bergier and the Editors of INFO JOURNAL is now available in a paperback edition from Signet Books at \$1.25.

In one sense, I am extremely grateful to Lawrence David Kusche for the vast amount of research which he has obviously done in writing his book, THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE MYSTERY--SOLVED. Yet, in another sense, I feel he has gone a bit too far by rejecting anything and everything of an anomalous nature which has supposedly taken place in the "Triangle" area. Kusche does show that many of the ship and plane disappearances have actually not

occurred in the area which is usually designated as the "Bermuda Triangle." He also makes it clear that there has been a vast amount of nonsense written on this topic over the years. Even so, he provides no real solutions to several of the disappearances, no matter where they occurred. Moreover, it is not merely the vanishing ships and planes which serve to give the so-called "Triangle" an aura of mystery. The Kusche book is well worth your time, but it is not the "whole story." The hardcover edition of the book is available from Harper & Row - 10 East 53rd St. - N.Y., N.Y. 10022; the price is \$10.00. A paperback edition is now available from Warner Books for \$1.95.



By Mark Herbstritt

## February Sky

**MERCURY**--It is in greatest western elongation on the 16th, so at about this time it might be seen low in the southeast just before sunrise.

**VENUS**--It rises about an hour and a half before the Sun and is 12 degrees above the southeastern horizon at sunrise.

**MARS**--In Taurus, it is near the meridian at sunset and sets about three hours after midnight.

**JUPITER**--In Pisces, it is well past the meridian at sunset and sets before midnight.

**SATURN**--In Cancer, it is well up in the east at sunset.

The Alpha-Aurigid meteor shower occurs from the 5th to the 10th.

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